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MAR.  
NO. 210

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMIC BOOK  
CENSORSHIP  
AUTHORITY

# BATMAN

IT'S ALL OVER,  
**BATMAN!**  
YOU JUST LOST THE  
**BATTLE OF THE  
SEXES!**



BATMAN FIGHTS  
THE LEGION OF FELINE FURIES!

# BATMAN

With BUDWEISER THE BOY WONDER

DEVILISH DILEMMA ARISES WHEN A NEW BREED OF HELL-CAT SPAWNED BY THAT ARCH-FELINE FELON CATWOMAN PIERCES THE STILL NIGHT WITH CATATONIC CAT-ERWAILING, AS HER FELINE FURIES JOIN IN THE "BATTLE OF THE SEXES" TO OUTWIT AND BEFOODLE THE CAPED CRUSADER IN...

## "The Case of the PURR-LOINED Pearl!"

IT'S BEEN TOUGH ENOUGH OUTWITTING ONE FELINE FOE...

BUT, HOW DO I FIGHT...

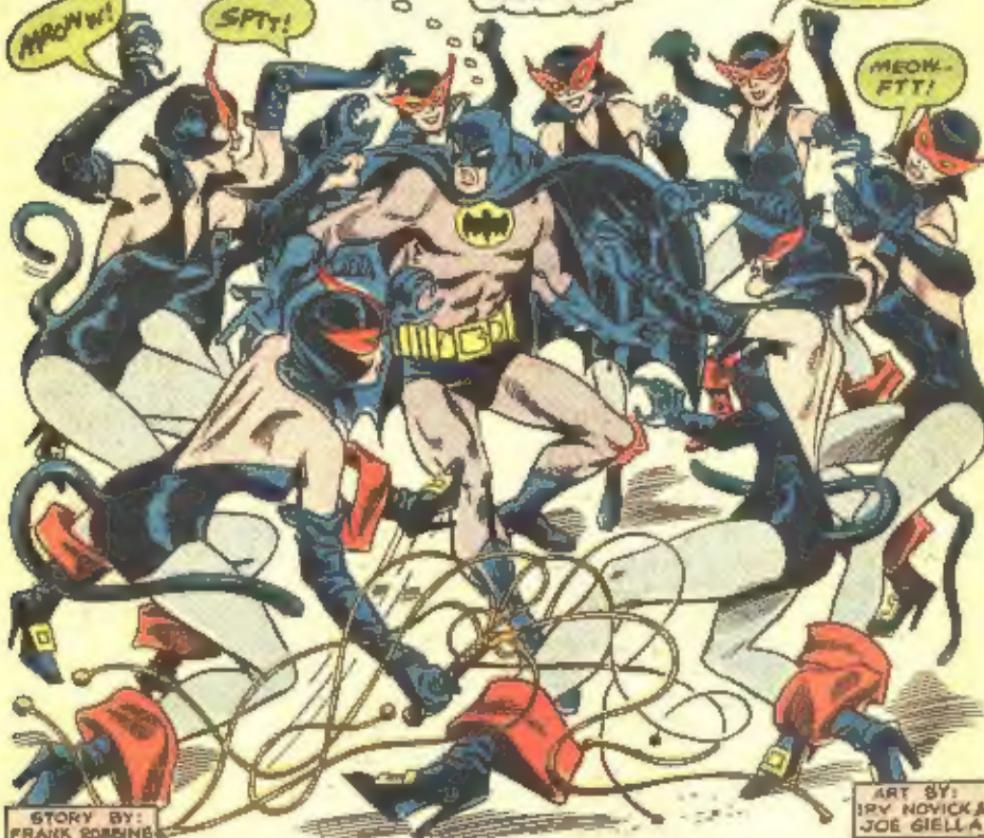
NINE CATWOMEN?

AND WHICH...

IS THE REAL ONE?

PURR... PURR-R!

MEOW-FTT!



STORY BY:  
FRANK ROBBINS

ART BY:  
IRV NOVICK &  
JOE GIELLA

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--AND SHE HASN'T MADE ONE FELINE MOVE TO COMMIT A CAT-MOTIVE CRIME AS-- CATWOMAN! INSTEAD, SHE OPENS A "SLENDERING SALON" -- WITH NO VISIBLE BUSINESS AS YET!



THAT'S WHY WE'VE ALSO BEEN CASING EVERY POSSIBLE CAT-TARGET IN TOWN THAT MIGHT LURE HER TO STRIKE! THE KITTY KAT KLUK--



SUDDENLY, BURSTING OUT OF THE POPULAR "IN" SPOT...





WHERE'S THAT BLASTED CAT-A-MOUNT LEVER-- R-DOFF!

LOOKING FOR A FAST LIFT, PUNK?

**ZOK!**



OKAY, TOMCAT! TAKE US TO YOUR LEADER—CATWOMAN!

CAT...WHAT? YOU MUST BE ROCKY. BATMAN! WE'RE AN INDEPENDENT ENTERPRISE!

YE-AH...? THEN HOW COME YOU'RE USING HER KITTY-CAR?

WE BOUGHT IT LEGIT— FROM LAFF' LOUIE'S USED CAR LOT!

SEE—HERE'S OUR RECEIPT!

THAT CATWOMAN'S LIQUIDATING ALL HER CAT-CRIME CONTRAPTION? CLOSING UP SHOP—GOING STRAIGHT?

IS IT POSSIBLE? AT THIS MOMENT, BEHIND THE CLOSED DOORS OF THE SELINA SLENDER-ZING SALON...

SLINKY, PET. YOU'RE SEALING BATMAN'S FATE! THESE EIGHT INTRODUCTORY LETTERS SHOULD BE JUST THE "CREAM" I NEED...

TO LURE THE FAT CATS NECESSARY TO START CATWOMAN'S NEW ENTERPRISE OFF TO A PURRFECT CRIME!

AND, MOMENTS LATER...

BY THIS TIME TOMORROW, A LITTER OF FELINE FURIES WILL BE BORN!

AND CATWOMAN WILL TRULY HAVE 9 PURRFECT LIVES!

U.S. MAIL

THE NEXT DAY...AT A FORE-BODING EDIFICE OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY...



LATER THAT DAY, THE GRIM GATES SWING OPEN, AND...

BYE, GIRLS!  
LET'S HOPE THIS  
IS THE LAST  
TIME!

TÀ-TÀ, WARDEN!  
DON'T WORRY--  
WE'RE GOING SO  
STRAIGHT--

--THEY'LL HAVE  
TO CATCH US  
WITH A  
RULER!

DIG THIS  
CRAZY  
WELCOME  
WAGON!



GROOVY! REAL LEOPARD  
SKIN BEATS!

WHAT'S THIS BOSS  
OF YOURS--  
SELINA--LIKE?

I PURR  
SHE LIKES  
GETTING HER  
PAWS ON  
ANYTHING THAT'S  
NOT NAILED DOWN!

AND WHEN SHE'S THROUGH  
WITH YOU, KITTENS--  
YOU'LL BE THE FANCIES,  
FLASHIEST... FELINES  
IN THE BUSINESS!



WHILE IN THE BRUCE WAYNE MANSION...

I TELL YOU, DICK, IF I WERE  
CATMAN INSTEAD OF  
BATMAN, I'D SMELL A RAT!  
IT'S JUST NOT IN CAT-  
WOMAN'S NATURE TO  
GIVE UP HER CAT-  
CRIMES!

MAYBE SHE'S  
ABANDONED ALL  
HER OLD TRICKS,  
BRUCE--TO SETTLE  
DOWN AS A NICE  
TAME BABY!



I'LL BELIEVE THAT--  
WHEN LEOPARDS  
LOSE THEIR SPOTS--  
AND REAL TIGERS  
GO IN FOR RUNNING  
GAS STATIONS!

UH-UH! SHE'S  
LYING LOW, GENTLY  
STALKING-- WAITING  
TO POUNCE! HER  
PREY-- REAL BIG  
GAME!

WHAT IS  
IT,  
ALFRED?

APPEARS TO BE  
OFFICIAL CITY  
BUSINESS, MASTER  
BRUCE. SIR! I  
HAND-DELIVERED  
BY ONE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
GORDON'S MEN

"OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF  
GOTHAM CITY  
DEAR BRUCE, IT WOULD PLEASE  
ME TO HAVE YOU, AS ONE OF OUR  
LEADING CITIZENS, IN ATTENDANCE  
AT THE RECEPTION GOTHAM IS  
GIVING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF HIS  
HONOR-- THE NIZAM  
OF NEPAL-- ON  
A VISIT OF  
STATE.  
CORDIALLY,  
JOHN V.L."



HMM, ARRIVING IN NINE  
DAYS! COULD THIS BE  
THE BIG EVENT  
CATWOMAN IS  
WAITING FOR?

ISN'T THE NIZAM THE  
POTENTATE WHO  
POSSESSES THE  
POTALA PEARL--  
THE MOST FANTABULOUS  
HUNK OF NATURAL  
NACRE IN THE ORIENT?

THE SAME! IT  
NEVER LEAVES  
THE TURBAN HE  
WEARS, EVEN TO  
BED!



BRUCE WAYNE HERE, COMMISSIONER! WHAT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE YOU MADE FOR THE **HEATH'S** STAY IN GOTHAM?

THE PICK OF GOTHAM'S FINEST GUARDING THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE AT THE GOTHAM HILTON, BRUCE! WHY?

CATWOMAN'S GOT HER CLAWS OUT FOR THE **HEATH'S** PEARL!

NOW--IF I WERE TO EXTEND THE HOSPITALITY OF WAYNE MANSEON TO HIS HIGH POTENTATESHIP...

YES--THAT WOULD HAVE MORE PRESTIGE THAN THE HOTEL, AND BE EASIER TO PATROL!

ESPECIALLY IF YOU BRING IN **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** ON THE CASE!

MOMENTS LATER, AFTER THE HOT-LINE PHONE RINGS...

WE'LL BE THERE WITH BELLS ON, COMMISSIONER--TO BELL THE CAT!

I CAN'T STAND THE SUSPENSE ANY LONGER! WHAT'S THE CAT-CLUE--WHAT?

WHAT DEVIOUS DEDUCTION HAS BRUCE USED TO DIG OUT A FRAIL FELINE FLAW IN THE FEEBLE TRAIL GIVEN TO HIM? CAN YOU GUESS BEFORE THIS ONE-PAGE PAUSE (PAWS) IS OVER?

## CRAZY HORSE

Build him yourself! This '69 Mustang model kit is rarin' to go. The 428<sup>®</sup> Cobra Jet Engine would unleash 335 horses... if it were real! Revell's new model of the '69 Mustang takes only a few fascinating hours to build. And you can build him a variety of ways. Build him convertible or build him hard top. Build him stock or build him street modified (he has optional things like racing shocks and mag wheels). Build him Drag and hold on! He's less than \$2.00, wherever toys or hobbies are sold.

Send \$3.00 for new 1969 catalog catalog of Revell kits.

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Glendale, California 91201



January Model of the Month

1969 Ford Mustang

# The Case of the PURR-LOINED Pearl! PART 2



IN PUR SON  
OTHERWISE  
KNC WIN AS  
SELINA  
KYLE --  
YOUR  
HOSTESS!

KNEW  
I KNEW 4  
THAT  
TAG GOOD  
OL NUMBER  
07860  
THE PRISON  
PET NO ONE  
EVER SAW

RIGHT BIG BARBARA!  
FROM MY EL TE  
EPOT N 'SOLITARY'  
I HAD AMPLE  
TIME TO JEW  
ALL OF YOU  
WITHOUT BEING  
SEEN

AND CAREFULLY  
SELECT EXACTLY  
THE EIGHT  
WITH THE  
REQU RED  
TALENTS  
I HEEDED  
TO CAT-  
ALYZE  
MY NEW  
CAT CREW - THE  
FELINE  
FURIES!

WE ALL  
HAVE A  
COMMON  
CAUSE  
A COMMON  
ENEMY.

MEN I WAS MEN  
WHO LED US  
ASTRAY MEN WHO  
PUT US BEH ND  
BARE LIKE CAGED  
TIGERS

NOW I GIVE YOU A  
CHANCE TO STRIKE  
BACK WITH BARED  
FANGS AND CLAW ED  
PAWS

I'LL PUT YOU  
TO FIGHTING  
TRIM TEACH  
YOU ALL MY  
TRICKS

TOGETHER WE  
SHALL BE AS ONE  
CAT WOMAN -  
WITH NINE LIVES!  
YOU THE BODY -  
1 THE HEAD!  
WHAT'S YOUR  
ANSWER?

I DON T KNOW' SOME  
MEN I JUST DIG THE  
MOIST

AW SHE'S JUST AN  
EX-CON, LIKE US!  
WHAT CAN SHE  
TEACH US WE DON T  
ALREADY KNOW?

YE AH I LIKE  
T SEE HER  
THROW ME  
FOR A LOSS

C'MON, RIBSY-CAT! LEARN ME SOMETHIN'

SOON PURR YOU'LL LEARN WHY YOU NEED ME AS YOUR BRAIN!



IF YOU HAVE ANY BRAINS LEFT, AFTER

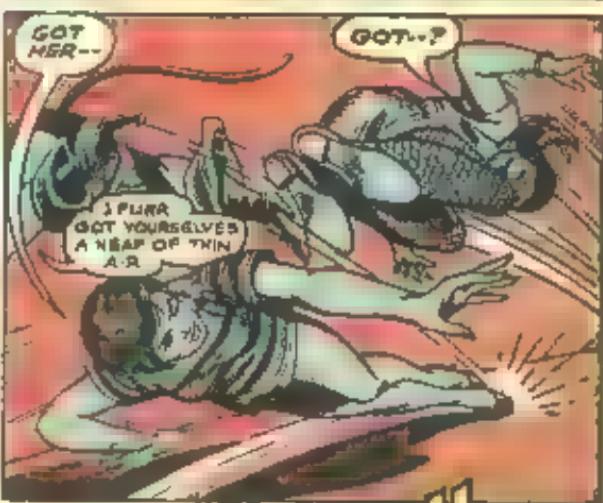
PURR, AFTER YOU CATCH ME F EVER



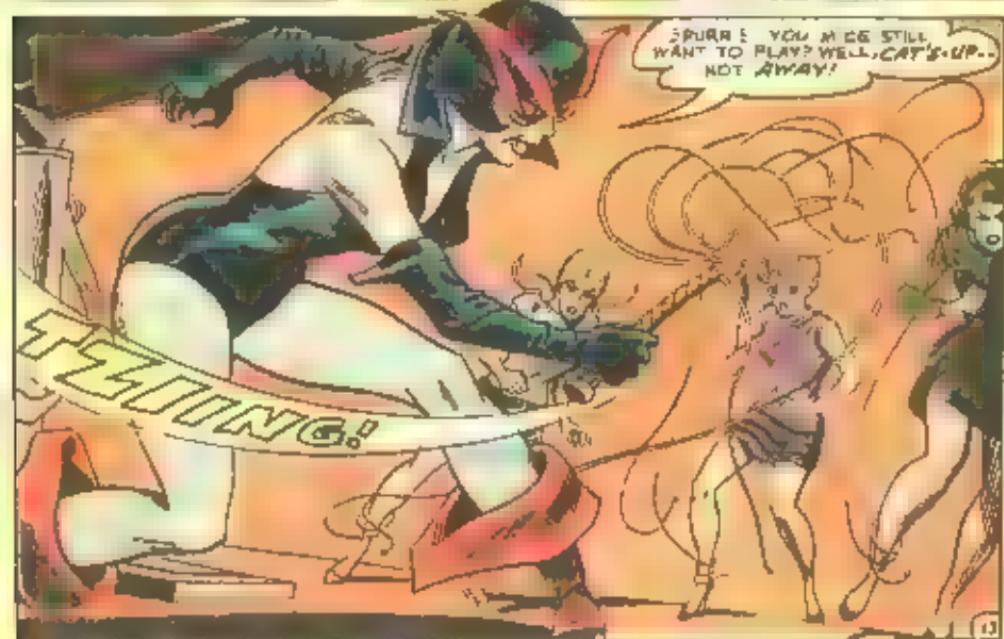
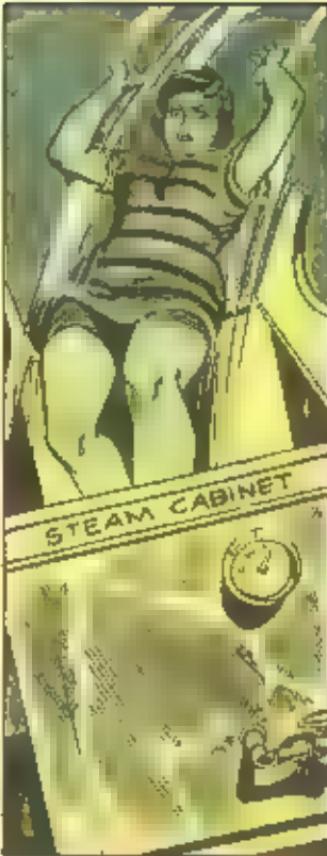
CHOMP

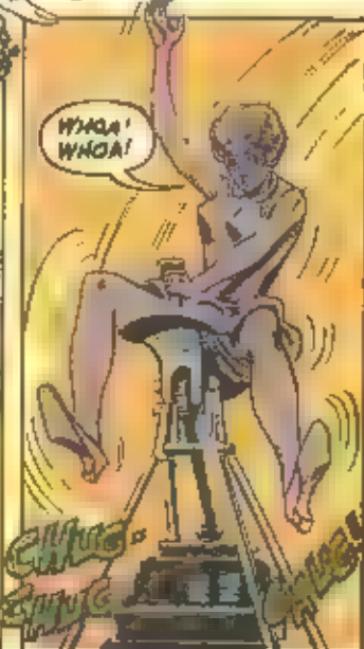
HOW CATCH THIS BIG MOUTH BARBARA!





AND THEN THE ACCIDENT BRAWL  
IS ON





NINE  
DAYS LATER.

SO I SOMEHOW BATMAN  
HAS GUESSED MY OBJECTIVE  
AND SWITCHED LODGINGS  
FOR THE NIZAM AND HIS  
PEARL.

**GOTHAM GLOBE**  
NIZAM OF NEPAL ARRIVES TODAY  
BRUCE WAYNE TO BE HOST  
BATMAN AND ROBIN GUARDIANS.

QUICKLY CATWOMAN DESCENDS  
TO HER CATACOMB LAIR  
BEHIND THE SALON.

WELL I PURR TWO CAN PLAY  
AT THAT CAT AND MOUSE  
GAME ESPEC'ALLY WHEN  
THE CATS OUTNUMBER THE  
MICE NINE-TO TWO!

LET'S INSPECT  
OUR NEW  
FELINE FURIES  
SLINKY

AM H PURR. NOW WE  
FORM AN UNBEATABLE  
TEAM.

BUT WHAT'S IN  
IT FOR US?

A BATTLE  
OF THE  
SEXES  
EN? WHAT'S  
OUR FIRST  
OBJECTIVE?

BESIDES THE LOOT WE  
SPLIT, YOU HELP ME  
OUTWIT BATMAN. I  
HELP YOU REVENGE  
YOURSSELVES ON THE  
MEN WHO SENT YOU  
TO PRISON.

SWITCHING ON HER  
TV MAGNA-MONITOR

THE OFFICIAL  
ENTOURAGE  
HAS JUST  
REACHED  
THE CITY.

WAYNE MANSION:  
WHERE BATMAN HOPES  
TO PREVENT ME FROM  
PURR JOINING THE  
NIZAM'S PURR-ICELSS  
POAD.

AH-H  
A MOST  
PALATIAL  
RESIDENCE  
THAN  
WAYNE I  
ALREADY  
FEE-  
AT HOME

THANK YOU  
YOUR LORD-  
SHIP AS YOU  
CAN SEE  
EXTRAORDINARY  
SECURITY  
MEASURES  
WILL ENSURE  
YOUR SAFE  
VISIT

LATER AFTER  
THE OFFICIAL  
WELCOMERS  
HAVE LEFT.

"WAYNE, IT HAS BEEN A MOST  
AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING TO OUR  
TOUR OF YOUR FANTASTIC  
COUNTRY, TURN WAYNE?  
BUT NOW, WE ARE  
TIRED."

"UNDERSTANDABLY,  
SIR, YOU CAN REST  
ASSURED OF AN  
ASSURED REST."

"IN THE SHADOWS ACROSS FROM THE WAYNE ESTATE,  
THE STAGE IS SET: THE NEAMAN  
SLEEPS IN THE MASTER  
BEDROOM, AND AS  
SOON AS ALL ARE  
ASLEEP..."

"...BUT THE CATS ARE OUT OF THE BAG!"

"HOW WILL  
EVEN THESE  
PURR-FECT  
FELINE FELONS  
PIERCE THE  
DEFENSES OR  
A POLICE  
Cordon AND  
DEFEAT THE  
BRILLIANT  
DEFENSIVE  
WITS OF  
BATMAN  
AND  
ROBIN?"

"PAWS NOW  
FOR TWO  
PAGES."

"WE FELINE FURIES  
WILL PURR-PETRATE  
THE PURR-FECT  
CRIME!"

# Paddy WaGoN



Monogram Models, Inc.  
Morton Grove, Illinois

The newest and grooviest FUN MACHINE in the  
Monogram exciting Rod and Drag model series!



There Ought to be a Law!  
Everybody Should Have a Paddy Wagon—  
Just for the Fun of It!

The Paddy Wagon is an old-time police "patrol" brought up-to-date... and then some. Designed by Tom Daniel in 1/24 scale. It's a wild, wacky, all-plastic beauty. Loaded with swinging goodies. Authentic wooden benches. Red padded interior walls. Mod wide boot skins and cycle fenders. Modified Cobra engine. 1912 "Fuzzmobile" grille shell. White police globe lights. Lots of chrome. Amazingly detailed. Old-time police helmet and nightstick included. It's easy to assemble and loads of fun from start to finish. Only \$2.00.



## LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Figure 12.

and the 17th at 8 a.m. to the Sequoia National Park.  
The 18th and 19th in the Sierra Nevada.  
On the 20th at 8 a.m. we started on a long and  
tiring 30 mile walk through the Sierra Nevada over some  
of the most difficult mountain passes in the Sierra Nevada.  
We performed well but I think we were a little tired.  
On the 21st we were at Sierra City and I saw an  
elegant Mountain Bluebird in a Redwood tree. This was the first time I had seen one of these birds.  
On the 22nd we were at Sierra City and I saw a Mountain Bluebird again.  
Because he was a little tired I took him to Capita and  
had dinner there. There is a large and interesting Sierra marks on both wings. He refused to land on the Sierra grass.  
At Sierra City

For the first time, the U.S. has taken a stand on the issue of climate change.

After the man in the crowd had said this, the people who were with Jesus said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man, and that you care for no one. We know that you always speak the truth, and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Our Father

Bartram Walker is a well liked citizen an exceptionality enterprising and the B. Corporation Frank R. Walker, who apparently is a descendant of the original settlers of the town.

Al nai in ayyi leli seccia qadawatka c'adher  
hii - qabu - m' qadawatka qabu - qabu - qabu  
hi se - qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu  
hii - qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu  
qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu  
qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu - qabu

Rule the world or harder still. Edit it.

Debutante

Congratulations! It is clear to see in the number of posts split on by Batman and Robin and in the posts where there were a good deal more than 100 if Batman or Robin and I hope he will be doing well in the future.

It appears the new information - or it could be  
new to Plaintiff - is that he - Plaintiff - appears in April  
as B&R's apparent victim in 1966 and that he  
is among the very the apprehension - including the  
fugitive - the Batman - who appear as the - he - were  
the criminal's victim - and B&R showing him to be  
method B&R - Squat - who is - make - seems as he had been  
left the scene. And as a result all the other times he  
escaped. Considerable - he - in terms of -ardon  
surely he is not with Batman and was not he - the  
method - he knew better and so - guess all we can  
say is this is the - the - the only man in the room  
or - or - forget it - a place has never a Batman  
and it is the - we - forget and say it is a Batman  
as a - as a - Plaintiff was killed - so he could

we learned up with the Ad. and will be given  
a Hotel & an excellent treatment. But at least one  
told him in a good way that animals well treated  
are natural to disturbed animals in the way. Hence a  
should be no such a place for a singer. I would  
then help the Ad. but the knowledge that his  
will also interfere with me in illustrating the claims about  
a 11 wps a week goes to the Ad.

Enfin, il est à noter que les deux dernières  
parties de cette partie sont le résultat de deux autres publications.

192 RE: 54-256 - *Amelanchier* 52  
100 *Bartonia* 52 - *in* *col* *leaves* *in* *all* *right* *o-*  
*Central* *under* *leaves* *where* *the* *gen* *that* *under* *the* *leaves*  
- *Exotics*

### Exercise 10

Mr. Nat Frank Robinson. After his release he got up to the Sentence he would not suffer any longer when he was his name repeated to Batman Walls the attorney.

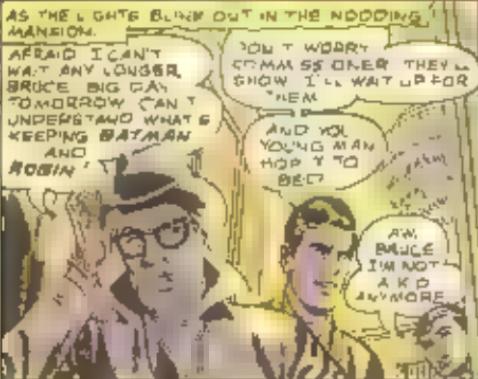
And Mr Robbins cut down on the "hip talk" and gave us a truly dramatic art. That full-length scene on the final page knocked me — a fussy nerd.

By the way - banks are bringing back the EXTRA column! I even have an empty one to complain about, if anything really worth to say. I'll write to it.

THE *GRABBERS* Virginian Beach. Va  
The *GRABBERS* are the best in the business to whom ever listen  
you will be sure to get the right answer. There are  
no *GRABBERS* in the *GRABBERS* nothing but the  
best in the *GRABBERS* you can get. Ed.

Authorship and publications - LETTERS TO THE  
EDITOR - National Publications Board, Hong  
Kong, S. E. Asia.

# The Case of the PURR-LOINED Pearl! PART 3



AS IF ON  
CAT'S PAW,  
THE CATTILEE  
SILENTLY SPEEDS  
AROUND THE  
ESTATE WALLS.

ON YOUR MARK, MY FELINE  
FURIES! WE'RE ABOUT  
TO SPRING OUR DIVERSITY  
SURPRISE ON THE UNSUSPECTING  
MICE!

AND THEN  
THE ROOF  
SLIDES BACK  
INTO THE  
WAITING  
TRUNK  
COMPARTMENT.

READY...  
SET...

WHEN I THROW  
THE SELECTION-  
EJECT LEVER...

WITHOUT BLOWING DOWN, CAT-  
WOMAN UNLEASHES HER  
SECRET WEAPON AT DISCREET  
INTERVALS.

YOU GO  
OUT ONE  
AT A TIME,  
HURLED BY  
MY CAT-APULT!

AS ONE OF THE FELINE FORCES  
TOPS THE WALL IN A DEATH  
DEFYING LEAP.

HAB  
HER!

SHE CARTS INTO THE FOLIAGE AND  
A SECOND FELINE FURY LANDS.

TAKE OVER  
SULTRY  
SARAH!

MY FUR  
LEISURE,  
TIMID  
TRIESTE  
DID MEN  
TH MOST

QUICKLY  
WHIPPING  
OUT HER  
CAT-O-NINE  
TAILS...

TRIPPED...

A SWIFT  
IN TIME SAVES  
NINE!

**SWIFT!**





\* A NEW WEAPON IN CATWOMAN'S SWINGING  
ARSENAL. ELECTRONICALLY ENHANCED LENSES  
THAT ENABLE HER TO SEE IN THE DARK LIKE HER  
FELINE COUNTERPARTS.



WITH CAT-LIKE DEFTNESS,  
CATWOMAN LIFTS THE PRECIOUS  
PEARL WITHOUT DISTURBING  
THE SLEEPING BEAUTY! ...

SLEEP SOUNDLY, O WITLESS  
COURIER FROM SHEE! SHEE!  
KAT-MANDU!



AS SHE STEPS AWAY, WITH EYES  
ONLY FOR HER FURN-LOINED  
PEARL, SHE FAILS TO SEE...



OH-H, I'M SORRY, KITTY! WE  
GIRLS HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER.



LUCKILY, I  
JUST MISSED  
GETTING TANGLED  
IN THIS CAT'S  
CRADLE, ON MY  
WAY IN! TRICKY LAD,  
THAT CAO!



GROGGY, BUT  
ROUSED FROM  
HIS STUPOR BY  
THE FRIGHTENED  
KITTY'S SCREAM,  
**BATMAN**  
REACHES OUT  
AND—



WITH A FELINE SEVENTH SENSE,  
CATWOMAN BREAKS HER FALL  
WITH HER HANDS!

KRUNCH!

THE PURR-EARL?

IT'S PHONEY!  
A PASTE  
REPLICA...

PRECISELY!

YOU DIDN'T THINK  
I'D JUST LET YOU  
BLINK IN AND  
SLINK OUT--

YOU RAT-BAT!  
I'LL TEAR YOU  
INTO RIBBONS!

WHERE'S THE  
REAL PEARL?



IN A FRENZY, THE FRUSTRATED FELINE PRACTICALLY PLAYS AWAY AT THE DANCING BALL, AS THE SHREDDED STRANDS STRANGELY CLING TO HER RAFAUCIOUS CLAWS.

WHERE IS IT?  
IS IT BROWNE?



IN MOMENTS, CATWOMAN LIES HELPLESS, A VICTIM OF HER OWN GREED—IN A WEB OF HER OWN MAKING!

THE PEARL IS WHERE IT BELONGS!  
WHERE YOU CAN'T GET AT IT,  
SINCE I TOOK THE PRECAUTION  
TO WIND THAT YARN AROUND  
A CORE...

...OF THE  
STICKIEST  
PLASTIC  
GOO I  
COULD  
FIND!

IS IT?  
BUT WHERE...



IT'S STILL ON THE HEAD  
OF THE REAL KITTEN—  
PEACEFULLY SLEEPING  
IN ANOTHER BED-  
ROOM! MR. WAYNE'S  
BUTLER WAS  
GOOD ENOUGH  
TO...

FAME BE A STAND-  
IN FOR A LIE-IN...

AND, MAY I SAY,  
BATMAN, YOU  
WERE QUITE  
RIGHT! NO  
BETTER WAY  
TO TRAP A  
KITTY THAN  
WITH A BALL  
OF YARN!

THEIR "HEAD"  
CUT OFF,  
THE  
REMAINING  
FELINE FURIES  
SURRENDER  
LIKE DOGIE  
KITTEHS,  
BRINGING A  
FITTING  
FINALE TO  
THIS  
CAT-O-NINE  
TALES!

The  
END.

# NEW "MATCHBOX" MODELS OF THE MONTH.



No. 76  
Mercury Commuter  
Suggested Retail—59¢

No. 83  
Lamborghini Miura  
Suggested Retail—59¢

IT'S "MATCHBOX" VS. THE BIG ORIGINALS. Take a look at the new Lamborghini Miura and Mercury Commuter. It takes some doing to keep up with these big car manufacturers. But "MATCHBOX" is the one to do it. With models that look like the real thing. Doors open. Tires even have tread. Parts really move. These new models are ready for your collection now. A free catalog with all the models you "MATCHBOX" experts want is yours for the asking.

# LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA

Dear Editor:

*Batman* has long been my favorite comic book character and very rarely do I have any major gripes about his handling. I wasn't overly fond of Gil Kane's interpretation of the *Caped Crusader* . . . but that soon departed. I protested the elimination of *Alfred* . . . but he's back. I disliked *Detective Patricia Powell* . . . but we've seen neither hide nor hair of the lady in lo these many years. So, I suppose the greatest gripe this reader has held against the name of *Batman* was the time I was almost hit by the *Batmobile* while walking by the 20th Century-Fox Studios. (Irony! I'd just purchased some of your competitor's comics and while waiting for the light to change, I'd decided to read all of the non-padded parts—finished with six seconds to spare!)

Thus, I am subtly leading up to my major gripe—*Frank Robbins*. Robbins is a good writer and DC was lucky to get hold of him. But whoever decided to put Robbins on *Batman* (and *Flash*) ought to turn in his *Superman of America* pin. A good character needs not only a good writer, but also the right writer. Robbins' writing isn't right—Robbins' writing reads rotten.

*Batman* is a creature of the night. You know that and I know that . . . but somebody forgot to take the message to Frank Robbins who seems to be interpreting the *Batman* character as a straight super-hero. To me, the name *Batman* means a fearless aid to law and order who prowls the streets of *Gotham City* and retains an aura of mystery . . . and aura which has been dwindling faster than Indians at a *Tombstone-Ranger* meeting. This aura has been replaced by "personality" which is the worst substitution since *Star Trek* was pre-empted by some vintage *Doris Day* movie. This aura is a feeling which was present in *Batman* from his inception to around 1961 when much the same replacement was attempted and personified by *Batwoman*, *Bat-Mite*, *Bat-ette*. It returned briefly under the suspicion of the *new* book but has faded as attempts have been made to replace it with a blatant "personality". In this case, it has amounted to making Bruce Wayne a semi-swinger.

I maintain that the *Batman* I know—the one originated 30 years ago—would never conform to a fad like the turtlesock sweater he was shown in, recently. Bruce is a mature adult and, for all intents, was Dick Grayson. There is no need for pages to be spent on *Batman* himself—as Bruce Wayne or as *Batman* facing some crisis. The strongest element which *Batman* has going for him has always been plotting. Be it a rousing fight or a clever mystery, your staff has always been able to put a good story into 13 pages. With the new *Batman*, this can't be done.

The basis of most stories lately has been this personality development. *Batman* and *Robin* have "split up". *Batman* must prove his detecting skill to a doubting *Gotham City*. Bruce Wayne has gotten "married".

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Act of October 23, 1948, Section 4309, Title 39, United States Code)

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. *MARK EVANIER*, President, Publisher, Manager

*Batman* has been "arrested". What in the name of *Two-Face* is wrong with *Batman* fighting crime, once in a while? His greatest struggles lately have been of the man-versus-society variety.

The most personality development can come from the least amount of attempt. In order to be effective, personality development must be subtle. It seems that all too many comic book readers (especially those who patronize the competition) see subtle personality development as a lack of any. Maybe they read your comics too fast . . . but I should hope that would be no reason for you—who has produced the best in comics for over 20 years—to begin to cater to an audience who has to have the meaning of every element in your comics explained at great length. Novak-Brown-Ciulla are supplying you with the best *Batman* art in a long time. Let's have some appropriate stories to go with it.

I'm talking about murder mysteries and *Penguin*-*Joker* battles. I'm talking about the *Batmobile* speeding through *Gotham* at midnight and the dark figure of *Batman* slipping out to foil a robber band . . . then slipping away into the darkness. I'm talking about *Gotham* looking at *Batman* . . . and wondering who he is . . . where he comes from . . . what he's really like. I'm gently talking about putting suspense, mystery, and most of all—plots into *Batman*. Get the "super-hero" out, and the "detective" in!

—MARK EVANIER, Los Angeles, Cal.  
 If you were echoing the unanimous (or even majority) opinion on Robbins—a la *Batman*, we'd be all shook up. But such is not the case, we're relieved to say—or rather as say the follow-up stories, typical of scores upon scores of those who have written in a similar favorable vein.  
 —Editor)

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Dear Editor:

Frank Robbins has given us some intriguing scripts in the latest four issues of *Batman* and *Detective*. He combines the most accurate touches of intrigue, mystery, and realism in his tales. Never before have I seen so many subplots and twists in *Batman* stories.

—BRADELY ANDERSON, Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Editor:

I can't figure Frank Robbins out. First, he wrote a two-part story for *Flash* that was bad. Then he did some *Batman* on-spy that were almost as bad. Then I read two new stories by him in the same week that are some of the best I've ever read: "Marshal-Like Miss" (*Detective* 280) and "Batman Walks the Last Mile" (*Batman* 206). Now let's go for three in a row from Frank Robbins!

—STEVE CARIHERG, Shreveport, La.

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